



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2009

The following principles are designed to assist the ORPA Legislative Committee and legislative advocates in determining appropriate action regarding legislation and ballot measures that impact park and recreation services in Oregon.

- **Principle 1** – Maintain local control regarding park and recreation service delivery, policy development, and financial capacity.
- **Principle 2** – Oppose unfunded mandates.
- **Principle 3** – Maintain or enhance existing funding levels for state programs that are allied with and support public park and recreation agencies and programs. Maintain park and recreation agencies' eligibility for funding in existing programs and promote eligibility for funding in new programs.
- **Principle 4** – Oppose proposals that would increase resources in one agency in exchange for reduced funding within other allied and partner agencies. Look always for opportunities to bring more resources to the table when new initiatives are proposed.
- **Principle 5** – Foster opportunities for innovative alliances with existing agencies and partners to develop new ventures with private, commercial, non-profit and public organizations that will promote recreation programs and park facilities operation and construction.
- **Principle 6** - Enhance the ability of park and recreation agencies to engage in efforts to further develop an environmental ethic among all Oregonians with a special focus on youth.

The ORPA Legislative Committee recommends the following priority actions for the 2009 Legislative Session.

- **Action 1** – Oppose legislation that will negatively impact the ability for local governments to assess, collect, and use Park SDCs for growth related improvements including such provisions as limitations on charges, inappropriate changes in methodology, and/or elimination of Park SDCs.
- **Action 2** – Advocate for the proposed State Parks Budget, specifically maintaining the current budget appropriation for the Local Government Grant Program. The ORPA President and Chair of the Legislative Committee shall meet with Oregon State Parks Director to review the proposed budget prior to the budget being submitted to the Governor.
- **Action 3** – Monitor all land use legislation. Oppose legislation that limits or prohibits public agencies from acquiring and developing land for park and recreation purposes.
- **Action 4** – Monitor legislation related to health and wellness, look for opportunities to form partnerships and advocate for programs that promote healthy lifestyles.
- **Action 5** - Oppose efforts to eliminate the Land & Water Conservation Fund state assistance program. Support funding for LWCF and look for opportunities to support other federal legislation that will provide funding for local parks, trails, open space, programs and recreation facilities.
- **Action 6** - Start a dialogue with promoters of the No Oregon Child Left Inside legislation and/or other similar environmental education programs. Explore the possibility of forming a broad coalition to promote such legislation.